

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. A surveillance system comprising:
  - 2 a first communications system communicatively coupled and adapted to deliver a
  - 3 request for image data;
  - 4 a second communications system communicatively coupled and adapted to transmit
  - 5 image data;
  - 6 a programmable surveillance system including a first computer arrangement for
  - 7 processing data including image data, and including a camera configured and arranged to
  - 8 capture images, wherein the captured images are processed as data by the first computer
  - 9 arrangement, and wherein the programmable system is configured and arranged to receive
  - 10 the request for image data from the first communications system, and, in response to the
  - 11 request, to automatically access and deliver image data to the second communications
  - 12 system; and
  - 13 a second computer arrangement for communicatively coupling with the second
  - 14 communications system, and for processing data including image data, and configured and
  - 15 arranged to retrieve image data delivered by the first computer arrangement.
- 1 2. A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the
- 2 second communications systems includes the Internet, and wherein the programmable
- 3 surveillance system accesses the Internet by logging on to the Internet via an internet
- 4 service provider (ISP).

1    3.     A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the  
2     second communications systems include a plain-old-telephone-system (POTS).

1    4.     A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the  
2     second communications systems include a wireless system.

1    5.     A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the  
2     second communications systems include a paging system.

1    6.     A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the  
2     second communications systems include an email system.

1    7.     A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the first communications  
2     system includes a telephone, wherein the programmable surveillance system is adapted to  
3     receive a telephone call from the telephone and, in response to the telephone call, offer an  
4     audio menu of choices for delivery of the video data, wherein the telephone is adapted to  
5     deliver a response to the audio menu, and wherein the programmable surveillance system  
6     is further adapted to respond to the response to the audio menu.

1    8.     A surveillance system, according to claim 7, wherein the audio menu choices  
2     comprise at least one of:

3 requesting the initiation of a streaming video feed via the second communications  
4 system;

5 requesting the initiation of the delivery of images via the second communications  
6 system;

7 requesting that the programmable surveillance system hang up and dial into the  
8 second communications system;

9 requesting that the programmable surveillance system hang up and redial the  
10 number called from the first communications system;

11 requesting the initiation of the delivery of images to at least one of a plurality of  
12 locations; and

13 requesting the initiation of the delivery of images via at least one of a plurality of  
14 communications systems.

1 9. A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the request for image data  
2 includes the provision of a caller ID number, wherein the programmable surveillance  
3 system is programmed with at least one stored caller ID number, and wherein the  
4 programmable surveillance system is adapted to detect the caller ID number of the request  
5 and compare the caller ID number with the at least one stored caller ID number and, in  
6 response to detecting a match, automatically access and deliver image data.

1    10.    A surveillance system, according to claim 9, wherein each of the at least one stored  
2    caller ID numbers includes a programmed communications delivery method, and wherein  
3    the programmable surveillance system is adapted to automatically access and deliver  
4    image data via the programmed communications delivery method corresponding to the  
5    matched caller ID number.

1    11.    A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the first communications  
2    system includes a telephone, wherein the programmable surveillance system is  
3    programmed with an access code and adapted to receive a telephone call from the  
4    telephone and, in response to the telephone call, request the access code and, in response to  
5    the access code being entered via the telephone, automatically access and deliver image  
6    data to the second communications system.

1    12.    A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the first and second  
2    communications system are included in a single communications system.

1    13.    A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the communications system  
2    includes at least two communication forms.

1    14.    A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the programmable  
2    surveillance system is further configured and arranged to gather and deliver image data to  
3    the second communications system responsive to the request.

1 15. A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the camera includes a video  
2 camera, and wherein the image data includes video data.

1 16. A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the programmable  
2 surveillance system further includes a microphone configured and arranged to capture  
3 audio, wherein the captured audio is processed as data by the first computer arrangement  
4 for transfer over the second communications system, and wherein the second computer  
5 arrangement processes audio data.

1 17. A surveillance system, according to claim 16, wherein the programmable  
2 surveillance system is further configured and arranged to gather audio in response to the  
3 request.

1 18. A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the programmable  
2 surveillance system includes a videoconferencing device.

1 19. A surveillance system, according to claim 18, wherein the videoconferencing  
2 device has a multi-processor architecture that processes video data using a specialized DSP  
3 arrangement.

1    20.    A surveillance system, according to claim 19, wherein the videoconferencing  
2    device includes a built-in display.

1    21.    A surveillance system, according to claim 19, wherein the programmable  
2    surveillance system includes a built-in, integrated Internet circuit-access arrangement.

1    22.    A surveillance system, according to claim 19, wherein the second computer  
2    arrangement includes a videoconferencing device.

1    23.    A surveillance system, according to claim 1, wherein the programmable  
2    surveillance system is further configured to encode the image data prior to delivering the  
3    image data to the second communications system, and wherein the second computer  
4    arrangement is further adapted to decode the encoded image data.

1    24.    A surveillance system, according to claim 23, wherein the encoded data includes a  
2    password, and wherein the second computer arrangement is adapted to decode the data  
3    using the password.

1    25.    A surveillance system comprising:  
2        means for generating a request and delivering the request via a first  
3        communications system;

4           means for automatically accessing image data via a first communication terminal  
5        having a first means for processing data including image data, responsive to the request;  
6           means for transferring the image data over a second communications system; and  
7           means for receiving the image data via a second means for processing data  
8        including image data, coupled communicatively with the means for transferring the image  
9        data over the second communications system.

1   26.   A method for surveillance, comprising:  
2           generating a request and delivering the request via a first communications system;  
3           in response to receiving the request, automatically accessing image data via a first  
4        communication terminal having a first computer arrangement for processing data including  
5        image data;  
6           transferring the image data over a second communications system; and  
7           receiving the image data via a second computer arrangement for processing data  
8        including image data, and coupled communicatively with the first computer arrangement  
9        over the second communications system.

1   27.   The method of claim 26, further comprising gathering image data.

1   28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the image data includes video data.

1    29.    The method of claim 28, further comprising delivering the video as streaming video  
2    over the Internet.

1    30.    The method of claim 26, wherein the request includes a caller ID number.

1    31.    The method of claim 26, further comprising protecting the image data.

1    32.    The method of claim 31, wherein the image data is protected with a password.

1    33.    The method of claim 31, wherein the image data is encrypted.

1    34.    The method of claim 32, further comprising including the dynamic address of the  
2    first communications terminal as a part of the password.

1    35.    The method of claim 26, further comprising:

2        accessing audio data via the first communications terminal in response to receiving  
3    the request;

4        transferring audio data over the second communications system; and

5        receiving the audio data via the second computer arrangement, wherein the second  
6    computer arrangement is adapted to process the audio data.

1       36.     The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
2              generating an audio menu of choices at the first communications terminal in  
3              response to receiving the request; and  
4              selecting a choice from the audio menu via the first communications system,  
5              wherein transferring the image data includes transferring the image data in response to the  
6              choice made via the audio menu.